Techniques needed and plant shape

Classification

Phylum: Phaeophyta; Family: Dictyotaceae; Tribe: Dictyoteae

*Descriptive name

brown rabbit-ears

Features

1. plants brown, of flat, broad blades, forked (dichotomous) mainly at the base
2. blades flecked with patches of hairs or sporangia, often in vertical lines (strings), or vague bands across the blades

Variations

short filaments at the base of the plant, or short proliferations if damaged

Special requirements

1. view the single dividing apical cell at the blade tip
2. slice across a blade to view the single middle (med) row of large transparent cells and single row of small dark cells in the surface (cortex, co) layer

Occurrences

from S W Australia to Aldinga S Australia and S Africa

Usual Habitat

on rock, often near sand, with good current flow,

Similar Species

1. Dictyota diemensis, but sporangia of this species have a stalk (pedicel) of several cells and the blades are generally narrower
2. Dilophus robustus, but this has 2-5 cell rows in the medulla

Description in the Benthic Flora

Part II, pages 190-192

Details of Anatomy

1. cross section showing the single row of large middle (medulla, med) cells, single row of surface (cortex, co) cells, group of sporangia (sp) and hairs (h) located on the upper surface (slide 9355)
2. protruding apical cell (ap c) (slide 9357)
3. strings of sporangia (sp) and hair tufts (h) on blade surface) (slide 9357)
4. spindle-shaped groups of oogonia ("eggs") vaguely in vertical lines seen on a surface of a blade (slide 9359)

* Descriptive names are inventions to aid identification, and are not commonly used

"Algae Revealed" R N Baldock, S Australian State Herbarium, July 2003
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